

H 9210

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

July 24, 1967

Mr. ASHBROOK. Mr. Speaker, during the past weekend, we learned through press accounts that the Supreme Court of Algeria had approved the request from the Congo to extradite former Congolese Premier Moise Tshombe.

President Mobutu has stated that Tshombe will be executed, without benefit of appearing in person in a new trial, and there seems to be little hope that Tshombe's life will be spared by the present Congo leaders, let alone his freedom granted, since, in the words of Mobutu, Tshombe is a traitor to the nation he once led—and the United States recognized—and "for us he is a dead man."

The press reports did bring some hope in the form of statements that President Johnson has decided to intercede privately with Mobutu to attempt to save Tshombe's life.

In this new light I would like to again state my personal request that all efforts be taken to aid this man who has stood with the United States and against the advance of communism in Africa during the violent years of the Congo's independence.

I call to the attention of the President a public appeal issued by the Tshombe Emergency Committee which calls for Tshombe's freedom.

The appeal, signed by 258 Americans, including academicians, clergymen, journalists, businessmen, and former diplomats, was originally directed to Algerian President Houria Boumedienne, but should exact even more thought from the President of the United States.

Here is the text of the appeal, a partial list of those who signed and, in addition, a news article from the Philadelphia Inquirer of July 22, 1967, detailing the most recent events. Also, I include a statement from the World Youth Crusade for Freedom, Inc., urging release of Moise Tshombe:

AMERICANS APPEAL TO ALGERIA TO FREE TSHOMBE, CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON BOUMEDIENNE

NEW YORK, N.Y., July 17, 1967.—Two hundred and fifty-eight Americans—including academicians, clergymen, former diplomats, journalists and businessmen—today issued a public appeal to Algerian President Houria Boumedienne to "... immediately release Moise Tshombe from custody and permit him to leave your country for whatever destination he may voluntarily choose."

The signers of the appeal (which is being published in the July 17th issue of the international edition of The Herald Tribune) also addressed their message to the people and leaders of other nations "... who are committed to the rule of law and to the right of asylum in the hope that they will take all appropriate action within their own countries and abroad to inform the Government of Algeria of their sentiments on these vital issues."

Among the signers of the statement were: Oscar A. De Lima, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Association of the USA; former State Department officials Joseph W. Ballantine, Spruille Braden, Paul C. Daniels, and Walter S. Robertson; journalists William F. Buckley, Jameson G. Campaigne, John Chamberlain, George S. Schuyler and Ralph de Toledano; newspaper publisher, Eugene C. Pulliam; Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, Dr. Frederick Brown-Harris; authors James Burnham, Max Eastman, Eugene Lyons and John Dos Passos; former

Chief of Naval Operations, Arleigh Burke; former Congressmen August Johansen, Walter H. Judd and Katharine St. George; attorneys J. Daniel Mahoney, C. Dickerman Williams and Rene Wormser; clergymen Andrew Fineberg, David C. Head, Raymond J. de Jaeger, Edward A. Keller, Charles W. Lowry, Edmund A. Opitz and Alexander Turner; Professors Paul L. Adams, Lev E. Dobriansky, Stephen Enke, William Fleming, Magnus I. Gregersen, Will Herberg, Sidney Hook, Walter Darnell Jacobs, Sylvester Petro, Stefan T. Possony and Karl A. Wittfogel; businessmen Lamont Copeland, Jr., Patrick J. Frawley, Minot K. Milliken, Henry Salvatori and H. Gregory Thomas; actor Efrem Zimbalist, Jr.

The full of the statement follows:

"In the name of the international rule of law and the sacred tradition of political asylum, the undersigned American citizens respectfully address this appeal to President Houria Boumedienne and the Government of Algeria. Free Moise Tshombe. All people who believe that the observance of international law is one means of achieving world peace and security are greatly concerned over the abduction of Moise Tshombe and his detention by Algerian authorities. The abduction itself is an act of piracy which must be considered illegal under all civilized systems of law. The detention of Mr. Tshombe, who has broken no Algerian law and has been brought into your country against his will, is both contrary to accepted precepts of international law and the right of asylum. For the Government of Algeria to participate in or condone an act of piracy and kidnapping is to set a dangerous precedent in international behavior and to lower Algeria's standing in the community of nations. We earnestly believe that the undersigned American citizens represent the thinking of the American people and people throughout the world when we urgently request the Government of Algeria to immediately release Moise Tshombe from custody and permit him to leave your country for whatever destination he may voluntarily choose. At the same time, we urge your Government to insure the safety of Mr. Tshombe so long as he remains on Algerian territory and until that moment when he leaves. By so doing, the Government of Algeria will prove that it continues to respect international law and human decency. We also direct this message to the people and leaders of all nations who are committed to the rule of law and to the right of asylum in the hope that they will take all appropriate action within their own countries and abroad to inform the Government of Algeria of their sentiments on these vital issues."

Circulation and publication of the statement was sponsored by an ad hoc Tshombe Emergency Committee which was initiated early last week by a number of American friends of former Katanga President Moise Tshombe including columnists William F. Buckley, John Chamberlain, and Ralph de Toledano; Rep. John M. Ashbrook (R-Ohio); American Negro author Max Vorgan; and former Secretary of the Navy, Charles Edison. Headquarters of the Committee is in Room 905, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016.

A spokesman for the Committee said: "We were surprised and amazed at the enthusiastic and spontaneous public response in the United States and abroad to the announcement of the organization of the Tshombe Emergency Committee. Three important issues which are involved helped to produce this response: the fate and life of Moise Tshombe, a good friend of the United States and a leading African anti-Communist; concern that the rule of law was jeopardized by Algeria's apparent condoning of an international act of piracy and kidnapping; and the belief in the right of political asylum."

"The Tshombe Emergency Committee is

in constant communication with individuals and organizations abroad who are working within their own countries to mobilize appropriate action which will convince the Algerian authorities to release Mr. Tshombe. We have called on all Members of Congress of the United States to urge the Secretary of State to make immediate representations to the Algerian Government to insure the safety and release of Mr. Tshombe. The Emergency Committee is in communication with various United Nations delegates and foreign diplomats in Washington in order to stimulate action on Tshombe's behalf."

JOHNSON SET TO INTERCEDE FOR TSHOMBE—ALGERIA HIGH COURT ORDERS EXTRADITION TO CONGO CAPITAL

(By David Kraslow)

WASHINGTON, July 21.—President Johnson has decided to intercede privately with Congolese President Joseph Mobutu to try to save the life of former Congolese Premier Moise Tshombe.

This was learned Friday after Algeria's Supreme Court voted to approve the Congo's request for the extradition of Tshombe.

Tshombe was condemned to death by a military court in absentia last March 13 on a charge of treason. He faces the prospect of execution by a firing squad upon his return to the Congo.

MOBUTU NEGATIVE

Mr. Johnson will not appeal to Mobutu, it was understood, unless the execution appears imminent. Although Mobutu was behind Tshombe's ouster in October, 1965, and the treason trial, he could commute the sentence.

However, a statement by Mobutu in Kinshasa after the Algerian verdict was announced raised doubt whether he would be lenient. Mobutu said Tshombe had been sentenced by the Congolese courts and "for us he is a dead man."

Mr. Johnson's appeal would be based primarily on humanitarian grounds.

TSHOMBE BLAMES CIA

It is expected the President also would advise Mobutu that Tshombe's execution would unduly arouse political passions in a country that has been sundered by rebellion and economic chaos almost from the time it obtained independence from Belgium in 1960.

Ironically, before the court announced its ruling in Algiers, Tshombe told the judges: "I'm the victim of an American CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) plot."

"If you decide to deliver me into the hands of the Congolese Government, I will accept your decision," Tshombe said. "I am a man. I am a Chief of State. I will go. But the responsibility for my fate will rest with this court."

CIA ROLE DENIED

Asked about Tshombe's contention regarding the CIA, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said: "There is no truth whatsoever to that statement."

Tshombe, accused of fronting for Belgium mining interests when he attempted to seize power in the Congo, also has substantial backing among conservatives in this country.

The late President John F. Kennedy came under steady attack from American conservatives when the United States backed the Central Congolese Government in its war against the Tshombe-led secessionist movement.

SECESSION CRUSHED

The secession was crushed in January, 1963. Tshombe returned from exile in Europe in 1964, became Premier in July of that year and was recognized by the Johnson Administration.

Mr. Johnson put Mobutu in his debt this month when he heeded Mobutu's plea for

MOR/CDF